been made on actual work done basis and no payment has been made on forged bill.

(d) No irregularity has been committed and as such question of transfer of any official or inquiry does not arise.

(e) and (f) Do not arise in view of reply given to part (d) above.

Leasing rights to French Company for exploration of bauxite ores

2525. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the global corporate Pechiney of France has sought leasing rights from the Government of India for exploration of bauxite ores; and

(b) if so, how soon their application will be processed and leasing rights issued?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINES (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) No proposal has been received from the State Government of Orissa or from any other State Government for grant of mining lease for mineral bauxite in favour of Pechiney of France.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

Promoting foremen to the posts of engineer in various projects of NCL

†2526. SHRI MUNAVVAR HASAN: Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the foremen engaged in the various projects of the Northern Coalfields Limited, Singrauli have been working on the same post for the last twenty years;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the vacant posts of engineers (E-2)

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

have been filled in by the departmental personnel without conducting any examination;

(d) if so, what are the difficulties in promoting the foremen who have been working for the last twenty years on the same post to the post of engineers; and

(e) by when, Government propose to promote the above foremen to the post of engineer?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINES (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD) (a) and (b) None of the foremen engaged in the various projects of Northern Coalfields Limited is working in the same post for more than 20 years.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Foremen are promoted to the post of Foreman Incharge and not directly to the post of engineer in the executive cadre.

Production of zinc

2527. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) what is the average annual production of zinc in the country and what has been the annual production during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) what was the share of Andhra Pradesh in this production; and

(c) what efforts are being made by HZL and Government to increase zinc production in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINES (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) The average of annual production of primary zinc in the country during the last